

Dixie Union Adds To Norfolk Lore Winning Haskell Million

It may only carry a Grade II rating, but the history of Oak Tree's seasonal championship event for 2-year-olds, the \$200,000-guaranteed Norfolk Stakes, has an ever-growing roster of impressive winners.

Dixie Union, the 1999 Norfolk champion, added to the luster of the race with a late summer triumph in the \$1,000,000 Haskell Invitational, thus becoming the seventh Norfolk winner to capture a million-dollar event.

Carrying the colors of Gerald A. Ford's Diamond A Racing Corp. and racing for his co-owner and breeder, Herman Sarkowsky, Dixie Union stormed from behind in the final quarter of a mile to shade western rival Captain Steve and Milwaukee Brew in capturing the historic Haskell.

The triumph was vindication for trainer Richard Mandella and jockey Alex Solis, who last fall believed Dixie Union was the best of the juvenile corps.

The skein of victories in million-dollar races by Norfolk winners



Win Oak Tree's \$200,000 Norfolk Stakes and victory in a million-dollar race is on the horizon? Not always, but often enough to make the roster of Norfolk winners very substantial. The most recent to accomplish the coveted double is Dixie Union, being led into the Norfolk winner's circle with Alex Solis aboard. Last summer, Dixie Union raced to victory in the \$1,000,000 Haskell Invitational, thus becoming the seventh Norfolk champ to capture a million dollar prize.

Opening of Addition, Induction Of Julie Krone Highlight 'Hall' Activities

Dedication of a new 10,000-square-foot addition to the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame and the induction of the first female to the Hall made racing history in early August at Saratoga. Both spotlighted retired jockey Julie Krone.

Krone rode for 19 years, posted 3,545 wins and saw her mounts earn more than \$81 million while becoming the first female jockey to win a Triple Crown event. She was inducted along with trainer Neil Drysdale, one of Drysdale's many classic winners, A.P. Indy, and Kentucky Derby winners Winning Colors and Needles.

After the induction ceremony in the Fasig-Tipton Sales Pavilion, the doors were opened to the museum, where a new gallery, the "Hall of Fame Heroes," is one of the more popular new additions. One of its treasures is the whip Krone carried when she piloted Colonial Affair to victory in the 1993 Belmont Stakes.

Museum director Peter H. Hammell told the Blood-Horse magazine, "The Hall of Fame Heroes is what is really blowing racing people away. There is a whole history of American Thoroughbred racing in that gallery."

began in 1983 when the Hollywood Futurity offered a purse of \$1,049,725, thus becoming the richest race in thoroughbred history.

Six weeks after he nosed out eventual filly champion Life's Magic in the Norfolk, California-bred Fali Time, racing for his owner-breeders Jim Mamakos and Dr. Marc Stubrin and trainer Gary Jones, made racing history with his Futurity victory. Life's Magic, who was coming off an Oak Leaf Stakes win, finished third.

The following year, Chief's Crown continued to enhance the ranking of the Norfolk while etching another new graph in the record books. The eastern invader, following an easy Norfolk score as the odds-on favorite, duplicated Fali Time's successful across-town trek to capture the opening event on the inaugural Breeders' Cup program at Hollywood Park, the \$1-million Breeders' Cup Juvenile.

Two years later, Capote repeated the Norfolk-Breeders' Cup double without need of a van ride, when Oak Tree hosted the championship program for the first time. Capote repeated his easy Norfolk victory in the Breeders' Cup test, beating eastern star Gulch in both races, to earn Eclipse Award honors, just as Chief's Crown had done.

Champions Best Pal and Bertrando, both Norfolk winners, enjoyed outstanding seasons when they entered the handicap division, adding stature to the Oak Tree stakes with million-dollar victories. Both won the Pacific Classic, while Best Pal also accounted for both the million-dollar Santa Anita Handicap and the Hollywood Gold Cup, amassing \$5,668,245 during his racing career to rank third back of Alysheba and John Henry on the all-time money-won roster when he was retired.

Trudy McCaffery and John Toffan's 1996 Norfolk champ Free House added to the glory by also going on to collect wins in the Pacific Classic and Santa Anita Handicap, as he became one of the West Coast's most popular runners of the decade.

Prior to becoming the first million-dollar race for the division in 1983, the Hollywood Futurity served to complete a noteworthy double for Norfolk winners Roving Boy, Snow Chief, Grand Canyon and River Special. Roving Boy was named champion of his division during his juvenile season, Snow Chief went on to win the Preakness and Hawkester, another Norfolk winner, later set a world record in winning the Oak Tree Invitational.

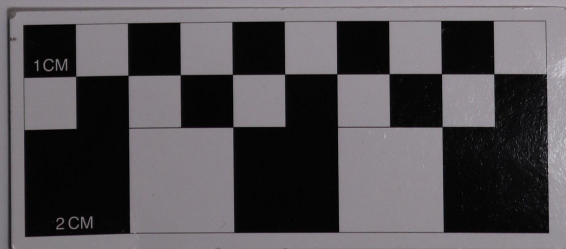
Grade II stakes, indeed.

Hammell reported the fund-raising program to cover the cost of the project has reached \$12.7 million. Among the major contributors is Oak Tree Racing Association, which in June made the first \$10,000 payment on a five-year commitment of \$50,000.

"Oak Tree's contribution was made to perpetuate our interest in a national presence in racing," said executive vice president Sherwood C. Chillingworth. "There will be a small gallery named for Oak Tree in the museum."



In appreciation of Oak Tree's continued support of the National Museum of Racing and Hall of Fame, trainer Jack Van Berg, left, and jockey Eddie Delahoussaye, both Hall of Fame honorees, express their gratitude to Oak Tree Executive Vice-President Sherwood Chillingworth during a visit to one of the museum's travelling kiosks. A new addition to the museum was dedicated recently, with Oak Tree assisting in the fund-raising drive through a commitment of \$50,000.



away with newfound respect.

"The parents have their eyes opened," said DeSantis, who accompanies the groups on their track visits. "They learn a lot and are amazed by how much is involved in the game."

Trips are strictly for members of Kids to the Cup.

Membership is available to anyone age eight through 16 by Internet sign-up at the web site, which is a colorful "club room" offering such features as a weekly column by jockey Chris McCarron, "Ask the Experts" for submitting questions, and "Member of the Month."

Determination of who goes on the trips is made by judging essays submitted by members. The subject was "Why I love thoroughbred racing" for a chance at the Triple Crown races. Essays were judged by trainer Eddie Gregson, Bill Heller of Backstretch magazine, and Jay Hovdey of Daily Racing Form. Writers of the top three essays went to the Kentucky Derby, the next six to the Preakness and the next six to the Belmont.

"The tracks say they need the future generation as fans," McCaffery observes. "Well, there they are."

The youngsters may develop their interest in the thorough-



On a visit to the Churchill Downs backstretch during Kentucky Derby week, there was a special thrill for KTC member Susie Raicher. She was selected to take part in a media interview, which gave her a chance to explain the project and enlist potential members.

bred sport on their own, but Kids to the Cup assuredly will help keep them enthusiastic, as shown by a couple of typical members:

"I learned so much and my dreams feel totally revived because not a single person we met didn't believe in us," wrote one of the trip participants, age 14. "That was really important to me because sometimes I feel as though I am chasing a dream I can never have."

"It was also wonderful to finally get a chance to meet Susie, one of my best online racing friends, in person," commented a 15-year-old. "It also made me realize, when I'm an adult in the racing world I want to do for other kids what you've done for me."

Officers and directors of Kids to the Cup come from various sectors of the racing world and include Anne Palmer, with 25 years of experience in racing administration; Jeremy Clemons, marketing and publicity manager of the California Thoroughbred Breeders Assn.; McCarron; TV personality Caton Bredar; and Laura Grubb, deputy director of the Thoroughbred Owners of California.

Future goals include continuing free trips to marquee racing events, establishing the Edwin J. Gregson Memorial Scholarship Fund, placement of members in summer jobs and intern programs within the industry and development of a thoroughbred racing curriculum for teenagers. ■



In continuance of its support of community projects, Oak Tree Charitable Foundation included a disbursement to the building fund for the first Arcadia Historical Society Museum among the more than \$810,000 that was distributed during the Foundation's last fiscal year. Community and city leaders joined with longtime Arcadia residents and racing fans Charles and Ruth Gilb, center, the fund's major benefactors with a donation of \$400,000, at a ground-breaking ceremony in March.

Charitable Foundation Gives Boost To Historical Museum Funding

Construction began last month on the City of Arcadia's first permanent historical museum, a project which benefited in part from the slightly more than \$810,000 distributed by the Oak Tree Charitable Foundation during its fiscal year that ended May 31.

The Arcadia Historical Society, Inc., was one of 56 non-industry organizations to share in \$138,000 of the total, nearly all of them based in the greater San Gabriel Valley.

The 4,000-square-foot facility will be named for longtime Arcadia residents Ruth and Charles Gilb, who were its primary benefactors with a donation of \$400,000.

The one-story structure will be located across Huntington Drive from Santa Anita Park, next to the Community Center on Campus Drive in the heart of the city. It was made possible through the generosity of the Gilbs, a number of donations from area corporations and a federal grant.

In announcing the Oak Tree grant, Executive Vice President Sherwood C. Chillingworth stated: "Arcadia has been our home for 32 years, and we wanted to support the major effort by the Gilbs to create an Arcadia museum. The Gilbs have been longtime friends of racing and have been active in the community for decades."

Gilb, an Arcadia resident since 1959, served 16 years on the city council, including four terms as mayor. His wife is president of the Arcadia Welfare and Thrift Shop.

"My wife and I wanted to give something to the city," said Gilb in explaining his enthusiasm for the project and his major financial commitment. "We wanted to have a place where our young people could learn about the history of Arcadia."

The Gilbs increased their initial grant by \$100,000 when the project stalled midway through the funding drive to reach the needed goal of \$784,400.

Other non-industry groups to receive disbursement from the Charitable Foundation included the Hillside Home for Children (\$20,000), Church of Our Saviour, Our Saviour Center (\$10,000), CalPhil Foundation (\$17,500), Devil Pups Inc. (\$5,000), Methodist Hospital Foundation (\$3,500) and Descanso Gardens Guild (\$2,805).

The Charitable Foundation also disbursed \$140,838 to numerous industry organizations, including the American Association of Equine Practitioners Foundation (\$15,000), Grayson-Jockey Club Research Foundation for its NTRA Drug Program (\$25,000), Don MacBeth Memorial Jockey Fund (\$10,000), National Museum of Racing's Capital Campaign (\$10,000 as the first payment of a five-year commitment), Piedra Foundation (\$10,000) and California Thoroughbred Trainers Foundation (\$20,000 for use with the Race Track Chaplaincy of America programs).

